

placing the specimen into a container excluding the addition of any degradation-inhibiting agents, wherein the face coming into contact with the specimen is made of or coated with a material,

*Ehrt*  
wherein said material inhibits the activation of a substance, which substance if not activated, cannot degrade the mammalian natriuretic peptides and is selected from the group consisting of silicone and plastics, and

wherein said specimen does not contain aprotinin.

---

**Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.**